

## INTERVIEW LOG

**Interviewee:** Mary Carolyn & Sarah Cockey

**Oral History #43**

**Interviewer:** Richard Dodds  
Phyllis Cobb (later for Historic St. Michaels Inc.)

**Date:** April 22, 1988

**Location:** Maple Hall, Claiborne, MD

**Topic:** Family owned boarding home, Maple Hall, in Claiborne, MD  
Claiborne to Ocean City train  
Claiborne steamboats and ferries  
Log canoe races  
Shops in St. Michaels  
Making of the movie, *The Kiss*

**Comments:**

**Documentation:**

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## BEGIN SIDE 1

Richard Dodds: Excuse me, but may we start from the beginning a little bit before we talk about places and people and events...a little bit about you...where you were born and when you were born.

Sarah Cockey: I came first, do you want to say that?

RD: Okay.

SC: I came first and I was born in Claiborne, but Mary Carolyn was not.

MCC: So, I was born in Norfolk, so I'm the foreigner, but I came back to Claiborne when I was just a baby, so my father died long ago.

RD: Well, my gosh, when were you born?

SC: I was born in 1910.

RD: 1910 and you were born in Norfolk in...

MCC: 1912.

RD: 1912, okay.

SC: We had a brother who was born in Claiborne also, but he was before I was, so it was in 1908 and both our parents were Talbot Countians, too, Eastern Shore.

RD: So, your family goes back aways in this area then.

SC: Well, our grandfather was born on Kent Island and that's the Cockey side of it. We didn't know our mother's father very well, so we just feel as if we have one set of grandparents, not two, and he was born in Talbot County also.

MCC: I think mother's father was born in Talbot County.

SC: Well, we started out in Claiborne.

RD: Excuse me. Where was the family house in Claiborne?

SC: You know where Maple Hall is? That house was the one where we lived in it some, but not regularly all the time. I wasn't born in that house. Neither was my brother as a matter of fact. We seemed to have very parapetic parents and their children. But at any rate, both my brother and I were born on Tilghman's Creek, but in separate houses. Both of them are still there. One of them is occupied by the Haddaways now and the other one is by some cousins of ours whose name is Cockey and that's the bungalow --- the one down closest to the water on Tilghman's Creek there. And the family burying ground is here on the place, too. It's all been split up though now so that the family only lives around the fringes of that creek.

RD: Yeah, I have been inside Maple Hall. Of course, I have seen it from the outside. It's very beautiful.

SC: Well, it isn't a nice house. It isn't a handsome house at all. But our grandmother's family was very large. She was one of nine children and she had seven brothers and another sister at the tail end and they all would come to see her all the time and then they would bring their friends and the house was not big enough, and so, they decided they would build a bigger one and then they would start having paying guests and it just kept getting like the other ones as you know about on the Eastern Shore. Some are boarding houses like Wade's Point and then a couple of things down at Bozman and so forth, the same thing. But the house was changed while we were still small children.

RD: When did you start taking paying guests down there?

MCC: Before we were even born. Our grandparents, all of the brothers and their wives and children all wanted to come and so the brothers all decided it wasn't fair for our

grandparents to take care of all those people and so they said they'd like to bring the friends with them so that's actually how it started and then, of course, they died quite some time ago and two of our aunts ran the boarding house for quite some time but then they both were no longer living, of course, so it's in somebody else's hands now.

RD: You also spent part of your time growing up there. Do you remember much about the boarding house and the comings and goings and the guests?

MCC: I was there more than Dick was because our mother and Dick lived in Baltimore for quite a number of years.

SC: In 1916, we had a little house of our own which was on the side...not very far away from the big house we called it. You know, every now and then you'd find somebody who thinks the big house is a jail (laughter). It's much more the English big house with all various and sundry dependencies (laughter). But, you see, we had our little house from then on so we were in and out of the big house a lot in the summertime because mother taught school in Baltimore and I went up to go to school where Carolyn went up for the same purpose, but she didn't hold out (laughter).

MCC: So, country living was better for me.

SC: So country living (ph) was better for her, so she was here and our brother went away to school in Baltimore---McDonald's (ph) School if that means anything to you.

RD: Yes.

SC: Well it's quite different now. It's really a very elegant school now, but in those days it was one that was really for poor boys or boys with just one parent or none and they worked in the summertime and they had two weeks vacation then and some at Christmas--two weeks and a week in the spring---Easter whenever it was and that sort of thing. So, he wasn't home very much either. I have a good picture upstairs. I'll show you what the house used to look like.

RD: Okay, thank you.

SC: It was much nicer than that. Although, I must say, that the grounds looked very pleasant (voice fades as she goes upstairs).

RD: Did you and your sister have a hand in running of the house at all?

MCC: No, well of course since I was there quite a bit from the fourth grade up, when I was in the fourth grade, I went to Friends School in Baltimore for one year, but that's when I decided I would come home and I would be around and would see what was going on and did a lot of things to help the grownups as we'd still keep on calling them. We're now the grownups (laughter).

SC: Oh, heavens, you can't see much of the house, but you can see the trees and why it was called Maple Hall I think (showing pictures).

RD: Yes.

SC: And that is our grandfather and our brother.

RD: Oh, I see, yeah.

SC: And that's before he went off to school.

RD: That looks like it was taken in the early twenties or early thirties.

SC: Well, it must have been quite early twenties because he was there five years and graduated in 1925, so it would have to have been...I think it probably was before he left to go to school.

RD: You can hardly see the house for those huge trees.

SC: Yes, yes. Here's a good postcard of it. If you're really interested, I can go look for that, too.

RD: That's all right. I will save you another trip upstairs (laughter).

SC: That's all right. Let me catch my breath. In time, sorry, but you can see really it was a spreading house and very pleasant, but of course, it isn't exactly the same place. By that time, the wing off it as you face it off to the right had been added and I think we can remember it beforehand.

MCC: Again, my point is you seem to remember one thing about it, and she says "Oh, well you're so young." (Laughter). And with so many of the places out in the country, they had separate kitchens---summer kitchens. They were summer kitchens and I don't remember that at all, but what I do remember is that the kitchen is still there that was what I can remember when I was just a little girl.

SC: That was built in between and so forth because we really had so many people in the summertime.

RD: It sounds like business was pretty good then.

SC: It was.

MCC: We had delightful people and we made a lot of very good friends in the earlier days. But, of course, when we went off to school and worked, we had really very little to do with it, so I haven't much to say about that, but there were some awfully interesting people from quite a long way off.

RD: I was going to say, where did most of these people come from?

SC: Baltimore. A lot of people came from Philadelphia and then when we were still a little bit older, there were an awful lot of people who came in from Pittsburgh. Pittsburgh was the first place from which the foreigners came and they bought old houses and did them up and they were the nicest kind of people. They really were all very well-to-do and comfortable and so forth, but they did so much themselves in it, and just made themselves part of the community and were really extremely nice people. They were nice to everybody and I think enjoyed it too. A lot of times they stayed all the time and well, you know Perry Cabin here was one of the ones the Pittsburgh...in the old days...the Pittsburghers came to live here and the Fox (ph) and that was very nice, Fox Cove, you know.

RD: Right. I gather that most of the guests arrived by steamboat or later by ferry.

SC: By that time cars had arrived you know.

RD: By ferry yes.

SC: Or automobiles. Well, I think one thing that is interesting is that for a long time a great deal of the traffic and shopping and so forth---people who were in a position to do so---used to go to Philadelphia often instead of to Baltimore. But, Washington, of course, is emergent (ph) much more in the later years and now are overrun with Washington, I think.

RD: I agree with you (laughter).

SC: I really must learn to be more careful with our population (laughter).

RD: Claiborne was a very busy place at one time as you know it, because were a number of boarding houses there and the steamboat came in and the ferry later on. There was a hotel there at one time, wasn't there.

MCC: Oh, yes, there was a hotel and part of the building is still there. But it was a two story thing and one of the things I was going to talk about was a little bit about the

territory that's down on the Bay where the steamboat came in and then of course, there was a train that went from Claiborne to Ocean City and I was talking with somebody not very long ago and we would go down to the steamboat wharf to see it come and go and that was a great escapade to go down...grownups and little people...and there was a pavilion that was down fairly close to the water and lots of people used to come...

SC: Sunday school picnics and things.

RD: Oh, is that right?

MCC: They did all sorts of things and then a lot of people liked to see the steamboat come and go. It was quite a large pavilion. At least it seemed to us it was, but that disappeared a long time ago and then as you can well remember, or you must know that an awful lot of the shore line washed away and one time a house washed overboard the storm was so bad. We were used to seeing the house, and then we went down one day and there wasn't any house.

RD: There wasn't any house.

MCC: The storm had carried it away.

RD: Where was the pavilion in relation to Claiborne today, you know, the ferry wharf and so one.

SC: Do you know, it's in that grove. There are several houses in it now, but where the railroad track had come, it was not on the ferry side, but in where the train tracks were and it was in there in the trees and that's the building...where there's a house. Right now people live in it, which is where the hotel was and it's right in there. There weren't any little houses in there at all. The water cranes was in there...what do you call that? (unintelligible). And the thing came down that was in there too.

RD: I've heard, but I haven't seen too many references to the turntable that was there in Claiborne (laughter). There's been a lot of discussion about this, because people often wonder, you know, was there a place to turn the engines around down there and there must have been.

MCC: Well, there was and I can remember where it was. I think I went to the edge of it when I was a little girl, but it was in the edge of the woods on the Bay side, of course. The train came through our farm. The part of the barn went over to the Bay and then it went through to the creek and then the woods began as you go up towards St. Michaels and the turntable was somewhere in there, but it probably is all grown up. I think Mr. Bodensine (ph) is one of the people who was very much interested in it and I think Mr. Roberts who has all the fancy train...

RD: Bob Roberts, yeah (laughter). Yeah, this has come up several times up in the Museum, people wondering about the exact location of the turntable. It hasn't been mentioned much in Claiborne.

SC: I don't think anybody knows, you know. About the only person I can think of that I know about living in Claiborne now who lived there when we were children, is the Timmons (ph) man and he lives not very far from the post office and general store on the street that goes out to Rich Neck. It's the new house in there. His name is Paul. There were four or five brothers and they were away for a long time and he's back now, but there's also, oh, what's her name, Jarmin (ph) might know.

MCC: Bobbie Jarmin (ph).

SC: Bobbie Jarmin lives right across the street from there and then I don't know who lives in that---it's a brown shingle house now isn't it---that's next to the Timmons house

just where the road turns around there and I don't know, there may be other people whom I don't know, because I was away a long time and when we'd be back in the summertime, and so forth, you know we'd walk back and forth to Claiborne to get the mail and get the groceries and so forth.

MCC: Wilson Harrison who lives in St. Michaels...

SC: He lived in McDaniel, but he's another really old timer from that part of the county.

RD: Ever since I've been here, when I was looking for places to live and I saw Claiborne and I said, "What a beautiful place this is." I imagine it must have been a nice place to be growing in right down there. It's such a lovely spot.

SC: I think it was pleasant and of course there are quite a few more houses there now, and when I look at items that they used to have in the *Star Democrat* ---they used have items from different places, you know--- Trappe, that was the one that lasted longest, I think---but Claiborne had social items and it was fun to know who was doing what and so forth, but that is all gone now. I really haven't kept up with people, but I do know there is that little sort of colony there where the Timmons is whichever one it is...Paul, I guess he's a little younger than we are.

MCC: Yes, he's younger.

SC: I think John was our age. We enjoyed it at any rate. Although we didn't live in Claiborne, we were close enough. We went to school there, started school there. There was a school. The building itself was moved to the crematorium (ph). Did you know about that?

RD: No.

SC: Oh, that's really something that is very interesting, I think. Have you met Betty Reid (ph) by any chance.

RD: I think I've met her.

SC: Well, I can come to her later, but she knows about it, too. When we were still small children and the *Cambridge* which was the steamboat was still running in the summertime for a week at a time---they brought over from Baltimore from East Baltimore, South Baltimore, crowded neighborhoods where the children might have been exposed to tuberculosis---they brought them over to the crematorium (ph).

MCC: Well, it was called the Fresh Air Cottage then, in the early days and I don't know who was responsible for the support of it, but a little bit later on, it turned into the crematorium and the state helped with it.

SC: The Fresh Air Society, or something like that I think, but it was really very nice because they had a great big building. We thought it was a fascinating fabulous building, of course, and they used to run all over it, you know, when they were getting ready for cleaning up, or after everybody had left, and it was very pleasant. It was down close to the water. There were several houses, you know, that street that goes down there and there are houses off on that side and a few houses on this side on the way down, but back in on the water, close to the water, there are two or three houses right there behind a fence and they are red houses, I think, and one of those buildings is the one that used to be the school.

MCC: It was a one room school.

SC: It was up on the corner on the road to Rich Neck and that street in there and we walked from our little house across the two fields I guess on the way to church unless it was too muddy. Otherwise, we had to go around the other way going to school. We also

cut across another field if we were just going to the post office and didn't want to go around the road which was oyster shell in those days.

RD: So, they used to bring their children for the day...

MCC: Oh, no, they'd stay for a week.

RD: Oh, they stayed for a week.

SC: They brought them for a week and they had a wonderful time and splashed around and they did have real nursing care because Betty Reid (ph) who lives here was a regular nurse and I don't know how many others, but at any rate, it is interesting, I think, that she should happen to come to live this close to where she worked and she did in the summertime. Her husband was from Royal Oak, so I really never thought about joining that up to her house.

MCC: There's another tale about Betty Reid. If you have a limited amount of time, we can tell you all those things.

RD: That's all right, I can listen. If you got time, I have time (laughter).

MCC: Well, one thing that happened after the first World War, there was a pageant out at Sherwood Manor.

SC: It was during, probably. I think we were probably raising money for it.

MCC: Might have been. It was fascinating, I think. Of course, I was still a little girl and there was an older lady who lived in the community who invited me to go with her and I sat along side of her and she had taken a chance on a Red Cross nurse doll and she won it and she gave it to me and I was terribly pleased. But the main thing about the pageant was that our next door neighbor in Claiborne was Joan of Arc, and she rode in on a white horse in a coat of armor made out of tin foil out of cigarette packages that everybody (unintelligible) and she had a staff in her hand and she looked very elegant and then the horse went along just beautifully and that was just wonderful. Then there was a little entertainment that went along with it. There was a little dance about fireflies and there were little girls who were dressed up like little bugs and had wings and things and they had flashlights and they were down on the edge of the creek and came up over the edge and they had flashlights so that they looked light lightening bugs and Betty Reid was one of them (laughter). We didn't know it until she'd moved across the street and so that's another connection with...I think she was there for the time to go to the crematorium which I think was really very interesting.

RD: If I run into her, I'll ask her about these things.

MCC: Well, Betty's having a difficult time with her back. She's had two operations on her back I think.

RD: Wasn't she mentioned in the paper or something I just read where she went to St. Agnes Hospital?

SC: Yeah.

RD: Yeah, you know I had my back operated there about three years ago.

MCC: Did you?

RD: So I know what she's going through, yeah.

SC: Poor thing, I'm sorry for her. She's having a little trouble I think.

MCC: There's another thing about that territory along the Eastern Bay and I think probably some of the canoe races...log canoe races...do the same sort of thing, but there were quite a few canoes that would go around to the Eastern Bay and they would start

from the beach. There was a very nice beach along the edge there and they had their boats all ready and then the crew jumped aboard and started from...

SC: They pushed the thing out.

MCC: They pushed it out and started out and of course, would have a handicap. That was very exciting having started out from the shore, but I just really remember hearing about them more than actually seeing them.

SC: I do remember it.

MCC: Well she's two years older than I am. Two years help.

RD: It makes a difference. Well, obviously living in Claiborne, you obviously took the steamboat and maybe the ferry to Baltimore quite a bit. You did go on the steamboat the *Cambridge*?

SC & MCC : Oh yes.

SC: The *Cambridge* in those days...I can't remember eating on it...but other people used to at any rate and they said they had awfully good food.

MCC: Well, they had you know quite a number of steamboat wharfs in various places up and down the Miles River and a lot of times the steamboats would take some produce or something or other. Occasionally, I think some of them took some cows free.

SC: And passengers I guess too was more likely, because that's the only way because if were you going back on the boat, you had to go up to Wilmington or some place on the train and then going (unintelligible) was kind of hard to do in those days.

RD: Yeah. Of course, the big thing anyone remembers about the train was bringing the people to meet the *Ocean City Flier* going to Ocean City. Because there were a lot of people who must have got off there on busy weekends.

SC: Well, I guess so. None of us have ever been Ocean City people at all so we can't fill you in on that.

MCC: We have plenty of water around here and we like it better. The sky is better. Then a little bit later when cars came along, the railroad didn't have very much business and the *Cambridge* didn't have much business, so they started the ferry and people still liked to go and watch it come in and go out and one of the entertaining things about it were the kinds of people who went on it. There were lots of Gypsies that were up and down the Eastern Shore and they had real old, but elegant, Cadillacs that they rode in and they had a bunch of children and what they did with them, they some how or other had an awful lot of stuff packed on the floor in the back seat and they had a blanket and they pushed the kids underneath the blanket so they wouldn't have to pay for fare of the children (laughter).

RD: Sneak them in, I guess.

MCC: And the house that's down on the ferry landing side, a part of it used to be the ticket office which was closer down to the ferry and it belongs to the Clarks now and of course, has numerous additions to it. But, I think that's most all of that we can think of.

RD: The *Red Star Bus* used to come here.

MCC: The *Red Star Bus*, yes. And there was a colored man who used to go around saying, "Passengers for the bus. Tickets on sale in the purser's office."

SC: And he had a special lilt the way he did it, which was sort of funny when he would start. Everybody who were regular riders would join in. It was very funny.

RD: I understand when the ferries were running there was quite a queue of cars waiting to get on.

SC: Oh, well for years when we would be anyplace where there was heavy traffic we would say, "Oh, the boat must have just come in." (Laughter).

MCC: It seemed to be the big thing then.

RD: Traffic jam.

SC: Of course, we also had this shell road until...when was it that cement road was put down.

MCC: The state road was cement for us. The county put it in and you were away at school.

SC: It was after 1920 in that case then I guess.

MCC: I don't know exactly when.

SC: I don't think it could have been very much after.

MCC: Not much, but I don't remember your being around enough. I now have another funny little story to put in it. We were talking with some friends that were beset with moles and so I immediately thought of the moles that the man who was in charge of all the road work---brought a box with dirt in it and a lot of moles and oh, I was delighted. I thought that was wonderful to have all those little pets, but they seemed to die overnight and so I went to a cousin and I said, "Oh, cousin Roy, please skin these so I can have a fur coat to make for my doll." He said, "Indeed, I won't. (Laughter). He took a very dim view of that. (Laughter).

SC: I don't know who was going to sew it. (Unintelligible). He certainly was very obliging. His son is in the hardware store up here. His name is John.

MCC: St. Michaels Hardware.

RD: Oh, yeah.

MCC: John Watts (ph). This man goes as Jack and the son is John. (Laughter).

RD: Well, I don't know where we were, but we were somewhere in Claiborne. I think we were talking about the ferries and traffic and so on.

SC: The traffic really was fun and interesting and I can remember in the wintertime, you know holidays and so forth when it was very heavy, but this was really almost before the ferry when the *Cambridge* was still running and the railroad was still going, we could stand at the windows in the library in the house and you could see the train going by at night. You know, it was fun with the lights and so forth and then all the traffic too that would be after the ferry because in the summertime you could see it without the lights on, but it somehow seemed more exciting when it was in dark.

RD: Well, the *Claiborne* did not actually have a train station as such. The trains where people got on and off were where the shed was, or am I wrong?.

SC: It was huge. At least to us .

MCC: The small boat shed...that's where the people got off the train and that was the train station.

RD: That was the train station, yes, okay.

SC: They had the ticket office in there and the freight office and all that stuff and it landed right on the side---the boat landed on the side. You had to go through there you know to get on or off the boat as the case may be. And there was quite a bit of wharf otherwise around it and then of course the breakwater out there.

SC: One of the other things that we always thought was fun was to watch when the *Cambridge* and the ferry---they left at the same time and they got in about the same time--but they often would race or seem to race as they came around Bloody Point. You

know, you'd be standing (unintelligible). That was really quite a day or they'd start at the same time here and you'd wonder which one would get to Bloody Point first.

RD: Well, the only ferries they had...they had to take cars up ramps, didn't they, and put them up on the fore part of the ferry.

SC: The first ferry, they had to go in and up and then back down inside.

MCC: They had a sharp bow and so there was a place farther back on the side and then you'd swoop in and then go up toward the bow and then back into the ferry way to the back and of course, the passengers all went upstairs which most car ferries would do.

SC: You see and after that you see, they were double-ended so they could come down.

RD: It must have been quite a job getting cars on to begin with because you had to drive up and back around and must be a lot of commanding and waving of hands.

SC: Oh, I should think so. Well, they were very nice people who worked on the ferry. We were fond of all of them. Did you tell him about Mr. Bushy?

MCC: Oh, no. Mr. Bushy was one of the crew on the *Cambridge* and he had a pet raccoon he kept with him in his cabin which I think everybody was always very much interested in. I thought it was really rather entertaining.

SC: We were more interested in that really than people coming and going. We used to go down. At the time, they had a fairly respectable herd of cattle and they used to serve...that was the word we'd use in those days...serve milk to the *Cambridge*. He was on the *Cambridge* and then to the people in Claiborne, too, and they had a seat on it and then there was another one you could put in the back and the tailgate hung down..(interrupted by door bell ringing).

RD: You talked about serving milk to the *Cambridge*.

SC: Oh, yes, that's right. And we used to ride in the back of the thing and we thought it was a great sport. It really was fun and it saved walking, not that we were so dilapidated we couldn't walk in those days, but hitching a ride was part of the fun.

RD: I was going to ask you about...did you ever meet Frank Sherman?

SC: Oh, indeed, yes.

MCC: Oh, yes. He was wonderful.

RD: We have most of his papers at the Museum.

SC: As a matter of fact, I have a letter I had from him I guess when I was in the library. I think I'd mean to throw it away all the time, but I haven't done it yet. He was very nice. You know where he lived in Claiborne?

RD: No, I don't know where he lived though.

SC: Well, you know where the post office is and the house that's right catty-corner across the street from it is white now, I guess. Anyhow, it's the one that's closest to the corner there and he lived there. They lived there. You know his daughter, Margaret?

RD: Yes, I met her. She came in about a year ago. She brought a few more things in.

SC: Well, that's nice. Mr. Sherman was very nice. He used to live here all the time and he did used to ride over after the ferry changed. He used to ride and take the back road up you know and rode around to Matapeake I guess, with the ferry.

MCC: There was a little ferry that ran between Tilghman and Romancoke.

RD: Romancoke, yeah. So, did you pretty much ride the ferries until almost to the end of their time.

SC: I can't really remember when they stopped coming, but after I finished high school and so forth, I worked in Baltimore for a while and I used to come home over on free

days and weekends. Oh, and heavens, when we were going to school, we always came home for holidays and weekends and then Mary Carolyn you see was here and mother and I used to come over for weekends through the winter.

RD: It was old hat for you to take a trip on the Bay then.

SC: Oh, heavens, yes. The rougher the better (laughter).

MCC: One of the best things that happened to me, I know you've heard about the cruise that the Museum had several years ago up and down the Bay. It was supposed to start from St. Michaels, but there had been a hurricane and we had to go up to Chesapeake City and we were so pleased to have a bus ride up there because we hadn't been up the Bay for such a long time. It was delightful to go up there and then go down. Of course, I had to miss a day actually, but it was delightful. We thoroughly enjoyed the trip.

RD: Yeah. It was a little unexpected trip.

SC: Really for us a bonus. What we didn't get to see is anything much in Norfolk which we might have enjoyed, but we did go into the Maritime Museum and that was wonderful.

MCC: Mariners Museum.

RD: Mariners Museum.

SC: Have you been to the one at Solomons.

RD: Solomons, yes, the Calvert Museum.

SC: Yes, I think it is marvelous.

RD: It is a good museum.

SC: We had a wonderful lunch there, which they quote laid on, as the English say, I think for travelers, because there was a full boatload of course. They were very nice.

RD: I didn't realize you were on that trip.

SC: It was great. We are just dying for another one. Somebody told us...maybe you ought to turn it off. (Pause, as recorder turned off then back on again).

MCC: I think that there isn't very much more we could say about Claiborne, and nothing in between there and St. Michaels, and there are a few little tales which I think are sort of interesting and one thing is about when the British came to St. Michaels to destroy the ships, the town and everything else, and there was an advance notice and there was one man who so frightened over it, that he went down to the end of Chew Avenue because the people kept their boats down there...he was so frightened he jumped in his rowboat and rode all night long and when daylight came, he found out that he was still tied up to the pier. (Laughter).

SC: I think that's a wild story.

MCC: I don't think it really is true, but I think it's entertaining.

RD: It sounds good, doesn't it.

SC: It makes a good story. In five seconds you can shoot it to pieces. Anybody who was used to being on the water would know that that was a creek with a lot of turns in it (laughter).

MCC: How in the world he could keep rowing and not bump into the pier, I don't know, because all rowboats or almost all rowboats are pointed in the bow and they certainly would have gone ashore and I don't know where he thought he was going. I think that's one of the most entertaining little things..I think it's very entertaining. Do you know the tenants who own the Cannonball House?

RD: Yes.

MCC: They're nice, aren't they.

RD: Yes, they're very nice. Yeah, I was in that house the first time about two months ago.

SC: Were you? It's really a lovely house, isn't it? They have nice things in it too.

RD: Let's go from Claiborne to St. Michaels. When did you start your association here -- move here?

MCC: You mean in this house?

RD: Well, no....

MCC: I was going to school...well, we came in the days of horse and buggy and we used to do some shopping and so two aunts and I would ride up the road and whoever was there and whatever they needed --- the family had four horses and one was exceedingly fast and one was relatively fast and the next one wasn't so very fast and the last one was the slowest. So the ladies took Dot, the next one was Ruby and the next one was Easter and the big one was Easton (ph) Annie.

SC: And when they needed two horses and a carriage they could come together in a vehicle. Anyhow, it was fun. We used to come to St. Michaels to go to the butcher shop and of course some did groceries also, but there was also Kaplan's (ph) dry good store. Have you heard about it? It was wonderful. You know, they had all kinds of dry goods things and even good clothes, nice clothes, you know. You could even buy coats, not just work coats, but regular things, because Easton was so far away. Of course you could go on the train as far as that, but I don't remember anybody going to Easton, particularly, so we used to come for anything that you couldn't get in Claiborne, you would come to St. Michaels.

RD: Where was Kaplan's located?

SC: Well, you know where the Calico is? It's in there.

RD: Oh, okay.

MCC: It's a sort of different looking building now

SC: And then it was the post office for a while. It's been gone for quite a while now.

RD: Yeah, it's changed.

SC: That was nice. Anyway, there were several other kinds of stores that I can remember. Wasn't it Dyer's (ph) that had crockery and then of course, the Fairbanks which was Lena (ph) Fairbank's uncle I guess who had the grocery store---O.T. Fairbanks.

RD: That was where the laundromat is? Is that the same building?.

SC: It was in the middle of that same block.

MCC: Is that where Crispin's (ph) is now, but that's an entirely new building. The old one just came down altogether and started new. It was also a hotel that was down near Carpenter Street at one time.

RD: Yes, the Chelsea?.

SC: You have a good memory (laughter).

RD: Well, I brought some things that jogged my memory in case. This is actually a fire insurance map of St. Michaels around 1908. But it's very useful because it's a great detailed map of the town.

SC: That's a little early for us.

RD: It's a little bit earlier...

SC: But a few things would still be there.

RD: Are there any other stores that you remember?

MCC: Yes, this is another funny tale. There was one where St. Michaels Hardware is. Part of it may still be the old building, but with a lot of buildings in St. Michaels there were second story porches that went out over the street---I mean over the sidewalk to the street---and Mr. Hacker (ph) had that store and with a lot of country stores around, they would hang some of their articles outside.

SC: It was an inexpensive store and they carried all kinds of things, but clothes were rough work clothes.

MCC: Boots and pants and things and one day when I went to Mr. Hacker's (ph) one day. You usually went there the last thing when you couldn't get what you wanted anywhere else in town...you went to the Hackers...and we finally got there and it was a very windy March day and I had gone with a friend during lunch time at school, which was around St. Mary's Square, and he looked out and the wind was blowing the boots and the pants around and he said, "Oh wait a minute, wait a minute, my pants is falling down." He had a very distinct accent. Mr. Kaplan was a wonderful man. He came to St. Michaels with a pack on his back to begin with. But, he was really just a wonderful man and did quite well and he had three children and one of them was the postmaster later on, quite a long time afterwards, and then there were just different kinds of stores up on Main Street and of course, a lot of the buildings are completely gone. I do remember the Town Hall because that's where they had Chautauqua upstairs and that was all very exciting. We will not go into that.

SC: I'm sure you must have heard also about the horseshoe...you know the blacksmiths.

RD: There were several in town at one time.

MCC: There's one where the Episcopal Parish house is now that was Mr. Joe Hunt's and I don't remember too much about it. Really, as much as I remember of St. Michaels, it was just along Chestnut Street because of going to school, so I didn't know very much above.

SC: Well, going back to when we came up in horse and buggies, I don't think that's a funny expression of in horse...and there was a hitching line along where the Columbarium (ph) is at Christ Church there and opposite the blacksmith shed and people tied up there and of course most of the stores were right along in there and the bank was there. A different building now. It was a three story building and I bet they really never ceased to regret taking it down and putting up what they have now, because it's so big you know and it spread so much. At any rate, that was there too. Another thing that we used to do or they used to do in St. Michaels --- there were people who had meat wagons that came around and fish wagons which I'm sure you knew about.. But at any rate, oh, then, Mr. what's his name with the flavoring...Mr. Watkins...you could get lemon extract and vanilla, and stuff like that, you know that kind of business too which was fun. I don't remember anybody with packs myself. I know that that's the way Mr. Kaplan arrived and I guess decided this was a good place to stay.

MCC: Well, one thing about Mr. Kaplan...we were talking, mother and Mr. Lewis who was one of the clergyman quite some time ago...mother asked, "Who was the best Christian in St. Michaels and Mr. Lewis said, "Mr. Kaplan" (laughter). Well, he really was a very good man.

SC: A very small man with a very noticeable accent.

MCC: Well, another thing earlier in the area behind the bank was what is the little addition to the St. Mary's Square Museum which a part was the magistrate's office and half was the barber shop and one story goes that some man who lived down in Bay Hundred had a very fast horse and he'd go through town racing along and so the magistrate stopped him one day and he said, "What for." And he said, "You're going through town too fast and we'll charge you a fine for going so fast." And he said, "Well, here's \$20."

SC: Wait, you've left out a piece. "How much is it?"

MCC: Yes, he said, "How much is it?" And he said, "\$10." And he said, "Well, here's \$20, I'm going back just as fast as I came."

RD: "Laughter." Well, that's funny because I guess about a year ago I came across (unintelligible) books which has I think 8 mile an hour speed limit for horses coming through town.

SC: Well, I guess they could tell pretty much what they were doing.

RD: I don't know how he figured how a horse was going over 8 miles an hour (laughter).

MCC: I think that's funny. Well, how about a drink? Would you like a drink?

RD: No, I'm fine, thank you.

SC: Wouldn't you really. A glass of wine, Sherry?

RD: No thank you, I'm fine. Thank you ladies. If you'd like some, please don't wait.

MCC: We can wait. (Laughter).

RD: One note, when you first started coming to St. Michaels to shop and so forth, were the streets here paved or concrete.

MCC: It was oyster shell for quite some time, but I think it must have been done fairly soon, though, Dick, because of the state road in Claiborne, so I think that it was..

RD: Surely, the pavement I think came out quite a bit further today.

MCC: Well, the trees were just lovely and they made the town much cooler. We always get ooh so hot up here.

RD: Laughter. The trees were on both sides of the street.

MCC: Both sides. You see, the wires didn't go through so much like they do now. Of course, they're on one side, so the new trees are on the other side.

RD: Because a lot of people have their homes along there which they don't now.

MCC: A lot of people lived along there. Of course, between Railroad Avenue and up as far as both of the churches I think, there were people who lived along there and then those people died and then the younger people had gone off somewhere. Some of them had and some of them didn't, but so many of the shops were people's houses a long time ago.

SC: There was a drug store in there between the bank and Hoops (ph) I think a second drug store. Of course, Hudson's was there and the marble seats that are in front of a little museum over here where the steps from there and I'm sure, I've never heard it said around, but I think that's the marble from Baltimore County, because there was a (voice fades, unintelligible) and Cockeysville I think.

RD: So it had to come from somewhere.

SC: And the white marble steps in Baltimore also came from there.

END OF SIDE 1

START SIDE 2

MCC: ....it was just awful. Terrible rivals, but so from the 7<sup>th</sup> grade on through high school and then I of course, having finished that I went to college and so we would be around in the summertime for holidays and things of that sort, but not very much for quite some time. We kept in touch of course.

RD: This was the high school on the Green.

SC: And my brother went to school there.

RD: People have told me about the man who had the muskrat business there, I think, up on the Green. Do you remember that? I think it's where the old Methodist Chapel there is. I think at one time it was used to store muskrat skins. I don't know if you ever had any contact with him or not.

SC: No, I don't remember.

MCC: Well, have you ever had a piece of muskrat?

RD: Never had them, no.

MCC: Have you ever had terrapin?.

RD: Never had terrapin either and I read so much about them.

SC: Watch the *Star Democrat* and when they have a thing over at Cambridge, you know maybe you could go there. I guess it's in the fall, probably.

MCC: I don't know, but they do have a big skinning thing and also sometimes they have dinners and some of the places farther down in Dorchester County along the Choptank, or the Little Choptank, you know, some of those little towns down there, I think, serve muskrat.

SC: You know, if you don't what it is, it tastes sort of like chicken.

RD: Uh huh.

MCC: It's a lot of people's food...ooh, rat. It's really more like that than I think than rabbit, for instance, you know.

RD: Also, some people call it the small rabbit. It sounds better than muskrat. (Laughter). Well, did your family ever move up here? They stayed down in the Claiborne area, yeah.. So you went to school here and then you started work...

MCC: No, went off to college, and then started to work. Have you been to St. Mary's City?

RD: Uh, yes.

MCC: Well, I went to college there, but anyhow, it was St. Mary's Female Seminary and Junior College and so I went to Junior College and then after I finished that and then later on went to work.

RD: When did you come back to St. Michaels?

MCC: 1961. We lived out at Maiden (ph) Point.

SC: Mother was still at (unintelligible) and we both had jobs. Mary Carolyn and I had jobs (unintelligible, voice fades) by that time and knew we were coming and in so we moved over here (unintelligible) and it was very nice to be home again. We thoroughly enjoyed it. It was a very pleasant place (voice fades).

RD: Was it this house or was it another house?

MCC: No this is where we bought it practically overnight (laughter), but we had a house out at Maiden (ph) Point, but after mother died, we had an apartment in Easton. We

decided we didn't want to live on the second floor the rest of our lives, so Eleanor Cook (ph) who lived down the street, told us about this and...

SC: Barn (unintelligible)

MCC: So, we found out about this and so we decided it would be very satisfactory. Our furniture would fit pretty well, so we came home and we had to do a lot to get the house in really livable shape. The people who were here were quite old and it wasn't very easy for them to get around. They needed to be in a house on one floor. I think we were lucky because we couldn't have afforded more (laughter).

RD: I was going to say St. Michaels in 1961 was a pretty quiet place, I imagine, wasn't it?

MCC: It was fairly quiet, I think so.

RD: Certainly, it hadn't been discovered by the tourists.

MCC: You know, I think people have been coming a long time because of the water and there used to be quite a different kind of regatta, both power boats and sailboats of various kinds and one of the people who had a power boat was John Charles Thomas. He lived across the Miles River then. So we've had a lot of people coming and going, so that I think they were used to the water for quite a long time and enjoyed coming.

SC: I think people when they sort of split up power boats mostly went to Cambridge, I think, and of course, Oxford is really the big sailing place and people we know say they don't come in...as far as sailboats...say they don't come in as much as they used to, or would like to because of the power boats and they just practically walk (ph) anything (unintelligible).

MCC: Do you like being on the water?

RD: I like being on the water, but, I'm a person that likes to...although I don't do much...but I like to go cruising in a small boat, just poke around the creeks.

MCC: That's the way to do it.

RD: A lot of those status people come to St. Michaels at the height of the season when everybody else is here.

MCC: And raft-up...

SC: Oh, awful, isn't it.

MCC: Speaking of going around in creeks and things, do you know Frank and Betty Hayes (ph) who live in McDaniel at Conover Point? There's a big crab house on the left hand side going from here to there? Well, anyhow, some friends of ours live there with their son and daughter, and I was very fond of them, and the daughter and another friend and I went on a canoe trip from their spot to Oxford and we were going to spend the night. And all of our parents said, "Go ahead, that's all right." And they were fine and dandy, and so off we went, but a terrible storm came up at night, and we were going to sleep in the woods, but then we decided we better not do that, we just better stay with the canoe. Well, one of the funny things that happened on the way...we discovered we didn't have any frying pan. We were going to fry up potatoes, and so on the way we stopped at a friend's house which was a boarding house and we asked if we could borrow a frying pan and she said, "Oh, yes." She was so excited about our going paddling around in the canoe and so she said, "Oh, let me give you a glass of jelly." (Laughter). Of all things to take on a canoe trip. But, we thought we had everything very well taken care of and then we decided when we got our supper and got things left up in the woods, then we went down to the canoe and then we slept in it underneath a boat house. It was a very elegant

lawn and lightening came along and there were a lot of statues in the lawn and the lightening made them light up. People weren't home. We went up to the house and thought we could stay there, but we found out there wasn't anybody there, so that's why we decided to go back to the canoe, because it was raining and of course, the tide went up and down and there were oyster shells underneath and we thought, oh hell, how long is the canoe going to hold up and stuff, and then the next day it was very windy to paddle home, but we made it.

RD: Were you glad to get back?

MCC: And everybody was saying, "Oh where are the girls, where are they?" And there was no place they could find out where we were and what had happened or anything, but we had lots of fun over it. So that was broad water canoing for me, because we usually went around...we went out in the Miles River. There were a couple of boys and I paddled up to St. Michaels one night to get sundaes from the drug store, which was Johnson's, and that was just lovely. We thought it was wonderful. We used to do a lot of sailing at night and so we were used to going out on water after dark.

RD: You remember that you spoke about crab houses. I'm sure you all seem to remember many of the packing houses, shucking houses that were around here.

SC: There was one on Tilghman's Creek which I think, you know, the smells of crabs and oysters and not so much fish, but I think that sort of turned us off of having anything much to do with crabs because of the smell.

RD: Who operated that one on Tilghman's Creek.

MCC: The man was named Alec (ph) Haddaway and he was a great big...well, he wasn't so tall...but he was a big man and he had a tremendous voice and one of his feats was that when there was a bad fog and the steamboat was coming in, there weren't enough lights and you couldn't see the lights and so Captain Alec (ph) used to go down on the steamboat wharf and yell.

SC: And call...

MCC: And call strawberries.

RD: A lot of strawberries.

MCC: There was so much down at Point (unintelligible) on the Creek and the house. Not only were the packing houses, the working part there, but they also had awful shacks for the people who picked crabs.

RD: I was going to say, how many people worked in these places? Was it a fairly big operation?

SC: Well it seemed big to us. But there must have been...I would think there might have been a dozen or so.

MCC: I would think so.

SC: About 12 or 15 shacks there, and not everybody who lived in them would work...some of them were babies and small children and so forth.

RD: Yeah.

SC: Of course that was a very seasonable business.

MCC: Of course oysters --- there wasn't very much to do with clams actually, but we liked...

SC: Clams came later.

MCC: Well, there were little bits of clams which we'd go and have clam chowder for soup, I mean for lunch. We'd like to go down when the tide was low and walk along and

we'd see a little hole where the clams were and we would jump on them to make them squirt and then we'd get the shovel and dig them up. They were soft shell clams.

RD: There was a packing house there...what others were there between there and say St. Michaels?

MCC: I think in McDaniel.

RD: McDaniel had one.

SC: Well, the building is there and apparently...what is it, St. Michaels Seafood Company?

MCC: No, I think that's Bay Hundred.

SC: Of course the other ones were down on the Bay.

MCC: Whitman and Sherwood.

RD: Yeah. There seems to be a lot all over the place at one time. When you came to St. Michaels, (unintelligible).

SC: We really did enjoy the chimney you know. They had (unintelligible) that was a while ago.

MCC: We were sorry to see it go.

RD: Oh, yeah.

MCC: Coming up and down in the river. You might have some more questions in your mind. We've done most of the talking, of course.

RD: When did your family stop operating the Maple Hall as a boarding house.

MCC: I don't know when, but our grandparents went there in the 30s.

SC: No, it was before the 30s. I was still a little girl. I thought you said stopped.

RD: Stopped.

MCC: Well it was a little more than the 30s or middle 30s, maybe '34 or something like that.

RD: Did they get out of the business because it was starting to slow down.

SC: Well, our aunts weren't living any longer, probably died in 1922 (ph) and one of them had died in 1930 and the one who carried on for a while was related by marriage... an old fashioned arrangement. But at any rate boarding houses by that time were sort of going out of business.

RD: Yeah.

SC: Certainly Aunt Judy (ph) wasn't able to take care of it, so it just kind of faded I guess.

Phyllis Cobb: Did you ask about Cockey's Fork. There's a sign as you go down there...Cockey's Fork.

SC: That's Cockey's Road, I think really, but I don't but anyhow, one of our Tolson (ph) Cockey lived over there and there is a wharf there at the end which people have been using for a long time...I mean the watermen...and then Tolson, our cousin, did a lot of boat repair work, engines, and so forth, and finishing up not only watermen's, but (unintelligible), and that's why I think it got to be called Cockey's Road, and of course, Tolson said one time they had been away and they came back and there was the sign; they didn't know anything about it. At any rate, it's....

RD: Somebody was telling me on that road down there there was a big locust tree or...

MCC: Well, the place where Tolson and Louise lived after they came back here from other parts of the east coast, the place was just loaded with locust trees and so they called it Locust Hill, because actually it was a little bit higher right there. Then some of the

other places, the highest spot on the place is 10 feet above sea level. But most of it is really fairly level and so there's one lovely story of long ago of a man from the lower Eastern Shore said he'd got sort of tired of living down there and he thought he'd come up to Easton to look around to see if he could find someplace he'd like and so somebody took him riding around various places and soon went back to the train. I said, "What are you doing back so soon, I thought you were going to stay" and he said, "Uh, uh, it's too darn mountainous." (Laughter). But there are a few little bumps in the road a little farther up in Queen Anne's County and Talbot County. There are some very entertaining little stories about the people a long time ago.

RD: You also had a very large family around here in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century it seems like.

SC: Oh, it was lovely when we would have Christmases. You know when you'd have 25 people and so forth. They would come back (unintelligible) they all live here.

PC: And Maple Hall?

MCC: Maple Hall, yes.

PC: Who did all the work?

SC: Well, Aunt Madien was the chief cook in those days and there were always other people. There were almost always cooks and then there were other people who would come in to help I mean as far that, you know.

PC: What did you call your chief cook?

SC: Her name was Mary and we called her Madien. She was the cook ...had a very delicate hand for decorating birthday cakes and all kinds of things and nice things to eat and so forth. It was very nice.

PC: Was she native here too at all?

SC: Well, yes, she was not born in Talbot County. I think they came over from Kent Island and some of the younger ones were born there, her father being one of the ones, about three I guess of them, who were born in Talbot County, but (unintelligible).

MCC: There are two sides to the Cockey family who originally came over in the late 1600s. One settled on the western shore and one on the Eastern Shore, but far more on the other side.

PC: Cockeysville outside Baltimore which is a branch of your family.

SC: Yes, rather far back.

RD: But there aren't that many around in this area anymore, are there?

SC: I think we're the only ones here. Queen Anne's County there are quite a few. At one time I was in the Town Hall Mall, and somebody who worked in a sweater shop I think it was there, I was talking to Louise, you know the (unintelligible), anyhow she came out and said Louise said, "Oh, here's another Cockey and I really didn't have time to find out if she was married to someone from Queen Anne's County, but we did have some cousins but never could exactly figure out what the relationship was, but we're close enough to claim each other with pleasure.

RD: I thought...somebody had told me at one time that Thomas Hopkins (ph) who lives on Hells (ph) Crossing and he used to work at Maple Hall. Is that right?

MCC: Ira's father. Well Ira did as a boy but his mother was the cook there in the summertime and his father did the vegetable garden.

RD: Oh, okay.

MCC: So, our friendship goes back to...

PC: So that's where Ira learned to be such a good vegetable grower.

SC: I would guess so. He was a good gardener.

MCC: His mother was a wonderful cook. She certainly was. Marvelous, best strawberry shortcake. (Laughter).

SC: And there's one of the best cooks I know about sitting over there.

PC: No, I'm not in a league with that.

SC: Well I was a country cook. I was country cooking which was different, of course, from the good cooking today.

RD: The food must have been very good there at Maple Hall. It sounds like one of the things that a lot of people remember about it.

MCC: People seemed to like it.

RD: Was it a lot typical of the Eastern Shore food that you hear about in the area?

SC: Well, it's the same kind of food most everybody else had at the same time as far as I know. Maybe, if you went to Baltimore or Philadelphia, you got fancier things.

PC: But some were visitors, where did they come mostly?

SC: A lot of them I think from Baltimore and as Mary Carolyn was saying, Philadelphia and then finally Pittsburghers.

PC: I've always been interested how many people from Pittsburgh there are in this area.

SC: I think it's interesting too, that was the first, shall I say, invasion, how people with any you know sizable collection. But, of course, I think some Pennsylvanians have trickled down, but...

MCC: I suddenly remember something else that I was going to tell you about St. Michaels in the background. That about the "First Kiss" and speaking of the people who came in on boats. There was a man who came in a perfectly delightful little yawl one fall, and earlyish in the fall and my brother and cousin and Dick all went down to see him and we'd always go out in a rowboat or a canoe to greet all the people...

SC: Or swim out.

MCC: Or swim out to greet the people.

SC: We swam all the way out.

PC: No nettles.

MCC: Off and on, but not like today. Anyhow, one boat that came in Dick (ph) (unintelligible) went out to greet the man and they struck up a friendship and all fine and dandy and the man never had very much to say about himself, but he was always finding about various things around and he decided to spend the winter in the creek on his boat and he would go down to the two grocery stores and there were seats all around and a stove in the middle and Captain Leslie (ph) would go and listen to the conversation that was going on. And then the next summer after he came, mother had a camp, and Captain Leslie used to take the kids out on the boat with him and he was just wonderful with the kids. He would never come in our house. Mother liked him. I didn't like him, Aunt Judy didn't like him and Aunt Judy called him the pirate and so some friends of ours were there and had heard about Captain Leslie, but anyhow what Captain Leslie had done, well, he and mother were talking, he gave her a book one day and she discovered that there was a name in the front that we'd never heard anything about and she said, "Wasn't that funny for him to give me a book with somebody's name in it." And so we found out that in the spring and late fall, Captain Leslie would go out on his boat and then he'd come back. He had lots of records. He had lots of books and a Victrola and sometimes

in the quiet evenings, my aunt might be outside after dark and she would come in and said, "Pull up the window, Captain Leslie has music going." And it was just lovely music and what was going on actually when he would go out and then he'd come back again and go out and come back again, he would go out to all of the rivers up and down the Bay and he would rob people's houses that are closed for the winter, so he took these things and had himself money to get along and finally, they caught up with him and he went to jail for three years and so our friends had heard about Captain Leslie and Chris (ph) decided he was going to write a book about it and so he did and it was called the "Four Brothers."

RD: Okay.

MCC: And I was so tickled when I saw a picture in the town graveyard the oldest brother trying to beat some sense into their heads which was in the movie.

RD: That's right.

MCC: I was terribly amused at that because I was around when they were taking the thing and it wasn't the regular and they had made one out of some kind of thin boards and beating his head not on the real tombstone, (multiple voices at one time) hollow thing really was terribly entertaining, so I was terribly tickled and then sitting next to me was Mr. Harold Hutchinson, who used to live at Clay's Hope (ph) and I said something to him, "Oh, I was there," (unintelligible) "Oh why don't you talk with Mr. Donaldson (ph).

RD: Actually, I was going to ask you about the "First Kiss" a little bit. You were obviously around when they were filming some of it.

MCC: That was when I was going to school and sometimes in the afternoon I would stay up and somebody would come get me because I was going on the bus, so a couple of times did that and then another tale that I think was funny about the "First Kiss" was Fay Wray was living in the house where the Longfellow's is now and she was of a well-to-do family apparently...a Talbot family, which is in the film. Had been a fine family at one time, but ran downhill, and the father was an old sot, just horrible. I don't know who he was, but he looked like the dickens and then the three brothers lived there where Margaret Rube (ph) lives now in a funny sort of tumble down house. And then, of course, Gary Cooper, who was the fourth brother, the oldest of the four boys, wasn't considered nice company for the daughter who lived over here and talking about poor white trash, and so they were trying to find some children who could be in the picture and there was a horse and buggy in the thing. But, anyhow, some of the movie people found some young children who would look like ragamuffins and so somebody in the movies asked the mother if they could be in the movies, and so she dressed them up beautifully. They were clean as could be (laughter) and that wasn't their idea at all, so they had to go to town and get chocolate ice cream cones and let them all eat and drip down (laughter). That was another funny thing that happened.

RD: But you never had a starring role in the film.

MCC: Oh, no.

RD: Because, I know I was speaking to Elmer Parkinson (ph) a few days ago and he was telling me that he was involved in one of the scenes when a postman was delivering mail apparently. They got him involved in that. It certainly was an event that so many people around here remember...the people who are still left around here remember. You were in college, you were away at the time.

SC: I was away.

RD: You were away at the time, yeah. It must have been quite exciting when this happened. I mean all these big movie stars and big cars and lots of activity going on. Did you go down to where the Parkinson's (ph) used to live and watch it down there while the filming was going on down there? The house where the Rude's (ph), Mrs. Rude now lives.

MCC: Well, I didn't go very much because of having to go home on the bus. You know, I couldn't go during the daytime, so it had to be after school was over. But, it was fun.

PC: Mentioning the bus, did they have any--- which they don't really have now --- public transportation?

MCC: Before regular school buses, yes we did have transportation in the days of the ferry...not the steamboat ferry...after the railroad. It was the Red Star Bus and it came from Baltimore. You got on the ferry and got off at Claiborne and it would pick up people all the way along and you would go on to Ocean City.

PC: It would run every day of the week?

MCC: Uh, huh.

PC: Every single day?

MCC: I think so.

PC: Several times a day or just that one time?

SC: You know, as far as boats were concerned, it coincided with them.

MCC: It might have had a morning and evening. I've sort of forgotten.

PC: But there was a way in which we can't do today.

SC: And of course, we always got off when we got here.

MCC: I guess the bus must have been there since Sambo (ph) was going around. Tickets went on sale in the purser's office, so they must have to buy their tickets. Maybe some people had (unintelligible). I don't know what it was, but anyhow, it did go from Claiborne to Easton, to Cambridge and Salisbury and on to Ocean City, because that's what the train did a long time ago. And it's interesting now to some of the people who live here now who lived in Baltimore would say, oh, that was the first time they saw Ocean City was coming over on the steamboat and going on the train. They didn't know anything about anything in between. Because they went right through on the train.

RD: Didn't stop in Claiborne, just kept right on going (laughter).

MCC: That's right.

RD: Well, they missed out. Is there anything else that you want to mention for posterity (laughter).

MCC: Well, please do a lot of editing (laughter).

SC: There's a lot of stuff in there...

MCC: Unnecessary stuff...

RD: Well, I think most of it is very good stuff. A lot of it I hadn't heard before.

MCC: Well, that's good.

RD: I learn a little bit every time.

MCC: Well, there's one more thing that happened. There was a man who was all over Talbot County who was psychic. He had a sailboat named *Psychic*, and he loved to tell people's fortunes. He walked all over the county and he loved to go to the boarding houses and tell people's fortunes and he had some very funny expressions and when he'd find some of the young girls who were getting ready to be married or interested in getting married, he'd look at the (unintelligible), you're having a few interruptions in your love

affair and if we would be walking to the post office, and we'd meet him along the way...he had a straw hat...and he'd say, "Oh, my hat to you ladies." (Laughter).

PC: Did he do this for money?

MCC: Yes, everybody gave him a little bit of something and he'd go to Florida for the winter. And one time when he was here, you know where the environmental concern is at the end of Chew Avenue, there was a very nice house that was at the end and I think it was a lovely..

PC: People named Hill finally bought it.

MCC: This was a lot earlier.

PC: A nice old Victorian house. It was still there when we bought our home...

MCC: It was Miss Hatty Plummer (ph). She was a delightful lady and we all fairly enjoyed her and what's the man's name...Doc Mulligan (ph), he used to keep his boat right down at the foot of...at the edge of creek down there and so he'd come up and talk with Miss Hatty and she'd say, "Come sit up here on the porch." They had rockers which most places did around the wharf, and he said, "Uh, uh, it will make me carnal minded." (Laughter).

PC: Was she very attractive.

MCC: No, but she was a very nice lady, just delightful. It was so funny. She told us that. I think that was very entertaining.

RD: It seemed back in those days you had more characters around that they don't have today. I don't know why.

SC: I think that's true because I found it when I was still working that there used to be a lot of funny people working in libraries and some who came in too. It was a kind of an interest in things that people were interested in and made it a little bit funnier. There are really aren't very many. Neil Vargas (ph) is one I think that you could put in a characters class, don't you think so.

RD: I think he would.

SC: I think he would too.

RD: Yeah, they sort have disappeared along with (unintelligible).

PC: Television has moved everybody all out, so everyone's just like everyone else.

SC: Too many, too much, I guess. It's a shame

RD: Okay, I think...is that everything? I'm sure there's a lot more to be said...

SC: Well, I think you ought to be the one to stop. (Laughter).

PC: While we're here in Maple Hall, I just wanted to ask now --- Wades Point --- how many did they have. Were there a great many boarding houses then I suppose. It was a big thing, wasn't it?

SC: Those were closest to us. Of course Wades Point was further, but Mary Carolyn knows better because on Bozman Road there were, but I don't know what they were.

MCC: Breezy Point and Safety Beach. That was Edmond's place.

SC: I think there probably were a few small ones in Tilghman, but Tilghman, heavens, Tilghman was just you know, you might have been in Timbuktu.

SC: Dorchester County as far as we were concerned. We didn't drive a horse and carriage down there. Because after the 1920s, I went to school in Baltimore. But then Mary Carolyn, of course, was still here. Until you had a car and when I left they were still driving carriages around.

MCC: I was so mad just when she was able to take the horse and buggy to St. Michaels and got a car, she said, (unintelligible)

SC: Of course, if you were going anyplace, you always went out the road, which I thought was a funny thing. I mean, I didn't think it was funny at the time, but that's the only thing you could do. It was down the road. You couldn't go in any other direction except down the road.

MCC: You did hear about the bank robbery...the St. Michaels Bank attempted bank robbery not too long ago. Have you heard that?

PC: Not too long ago.

MCC: Well, ten years ago probably.

RD: No, I haven't heard of that one.

MCC: Well, that was very funny. They caught the attempted robbers, but there wasn't anything they got out of the bag. I guess they must have gotten some money, but there wasn't anyway to lose themselves anywhere, because you'd go right overboard, and so some of the police in Easton found out about it and stopped them and so they caught them.

SC: There was another robbery saying they found a chest or crock or something you know that had been thrown out in a ditch. I think the people who were doing it, that could have been the same one that you were talking about because the chest or whatever it was, a box, that had whatever they had stolen, they had in a Volkswagen, you know, in the little old red ones, you know, they threw it out and went on so of course they got the loot or whatever it was...

RD: You know the best place to have robberies around here, because there are so many exits away from this place.

All voices at once: Yes, yes, really.

MCC: I hope we have been helpful to you.

RD: You have indeed and I thank you very much.

INTERVIEW ENDS HERE.